**DURHAM COUNTY ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of the Meeting of July 28, 2020**

**Present:** *Committee Members:*Jan Paul, Shafonda Davis, Kate Bremser, Marianne Bond, Kari Linfors

*APS Board Members:*

*Community Members:* Sarah Reichman

Committee Counsel: W. Darby

**Next Meeting:** September 22, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. – Virtual Meeting

**Item I - Approval of Minutes and Introductory Remarks**

The meeting was called to order by Shafonda Davis at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of the meeting of 1/28/2020 were approved.

**Item II – Discussion about Board Members and Officers**

Former Chair, Jenny Campbell, and Joyce McKinney, have rotated off of the Committee. New members need to be appointed, and new officers need to be nominated and elected. The composition of the Committee, as contained in the AWAC Bylaws, was discussed, to-wit:

*Voting members* – may serve two consecutive 3-year terms and may resume after a 1-term hiatus. They are appointed as follows:

 *By the Durham County Sheriff*

 1 veterinarian

 2 at-large members

 *By the Durham County Commissioners*

 1 representative from the APS of Durham

 2 at-large members

 *By the Durham County District Attorney*

 1 member

 *By the Durham County Director of Public Health*

 1 member

Non-voting members (terms not defined in Bylaws):

 One or more representatives from the Durham Board of County Commissioners

 One or more representatives from the Durham County Sheriff’s Department

 One or more representatives from the Durham County Animal Shelter

 One representative from the Durham County Attorney’s office, as legal advisor

The makeup of the Committee, including membership selection process, qualifications, term lengths and limitations, and attendance requirements, are established by the Durham Board of County Commissioners.

Notices for the election day meeting need to be sent, as well as an announcement of an election day meeting.

**Item II – Shelter Report**

Leah Santelli, Shelter Operations Director, provided a report on intake and outcome statistics and euthanasia reasons (attached to minutes and incorporated herein by reference). Fewer animals were taken in in May compared to those taken in during April, and 129 animals were adopted. The June 2019 “Pick Your Price” annual event provides a significant boost in the number of cat adoptions. As of July 1, adoptions are conversation-based – animals will be available to go home the same day. Public feedback on same-day adoption has been positive. National Clear the Shelters Day is August 17th; this is a fee-waived event. Thereafter, on Monday, August 19th, the project to reseal the shelter floors will begin. The spay-neuter program has provided services to almost 600 animals, surpassing its goal.

**Item III – Animal Services Report**

Capt. Tim Deck, Durham County Sheriff’s Office, reported that there were 1225 service calls during June, representing an increase of almost 200 from May. Average response time was 28 minutes. 312 animals were impounded. It is anticipated that there will be more calls during July; the Division has been picking up a large number of cats, including 22 trapped at one address with 15-20 more ferals at that location. Rabies Day will be October 12th at Eastway Elementary School. NC State University has confirmed that it will provide assistance, and it is hoped there will be volunteer help from zoology students. The DCSO had hoped to provide 3-year vaccines, but those can be sold to veterinarians only, so 1-year vaccinations will be offered. The DCSO has access to 400 microchips; the next free chip will be on August 16th at 3005 Glenn Road from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., on a first-come, first-served basis. Rabies vaccinations will also be available. A recipient owner must be a Durham County resident. Lt. Richard Rose has taken Capt. Deck’s position, but Capt. Deck will continue to attend Committee meetings whenever possible. Capt. Deck extended the Sheriff’s appreciation to the animal welfare advocates who attend the County Commissioners’ budget meeting. Although the Sheriff had asked for 32-34 positions including 4 for Animal Services; none were approved.

**Item IV – Old Business**

Committee Chair Jenny Campbell will follow up on the request to have the County Commissioners consider a curative resolution to reflect the Committee’s name as “Animal Welfare Advisory Committee,” consistent with the name as it appears in the Committee’s bylaws. She will also follow up with the Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the Committee seat vacated by ADA Brittany Edwards. Jan will contact members about rescheduling the shelter tour for the Committee members.

**Item V – New Business**

Capt. Deck announced that ADA Kendra Montgomery-Blinn will be assigned to prosecute animal cruelty cases, and that she has met with Animal Services Officers Penner and Beck to discuss an upcoming case involving an emaciated horse.

**Item VI – Public Comments**

Anissa Litwin asked about the Trap Program. Capt. Deck explained traps are set, if appropriate, upon request from members of the community. The recent request yielding 22 cats trapped at one address came from managerial staff at the apartment complex.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Perrin Paul, Secretary

<Attachments>